



Pinnacle

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Editor: Marissa Smith

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

Executive Director's Report



- ◆ Thanks to all of our staff for their outstanding participation in the training and photo day on the 17th in **White County**. This annual event is always a highlight of the year as we discuss our plans and efforts of the coming year and look at our accomplishments for the past year.
- ◆ Thanks to Chairman Sam Norton, CLEO Chairman and Council Member Mike Berg, and Council Member Lamar Paris for joining our annual training and sharing their thoughts and wisdom with our staff. I appreciate all who participated and all who planned the event.
- ◆ Our quarterly GMRC City/County Managers Meeting was hosted in the **City of Toccoa** by Manager Billy Morse and Mayor Gail Fry. It was well attended and some great ideas and opportunities were shared by all attendees. **Toccoa** has rebuilt their swimming pool into a beautiful facility that is very energy efficient. We were able to visit the facility and hear from Billy and the Mayor about the project. Our next meeting of the city and county managers will be held at Jaemor Farms in **Lula** and will be hosted by Dennis Bergin and the **City of Lula** on December 10th.
- ◆ We are still awaiting the **City of Gainesville** to approve the details in order for us to begin work on the parking shelter for our two Mobile Training Units which will be located behind our W. Ridge Rd office.
- ◆ Our Workforce Development staff held a Job Fair in **Cornelia** on September 16th. These are always well attended as many folks are looking for that right job. Thanks to the recruitment team for their extra efforts in this project.

Employee Spotlight



Peggy Lovell is the Executive Assistant at the GMRC. Due to her 35 years of commitment, she is the go to person for all of the staff. She lived in South Georgia and Atlanta, before relocating to Banks County where she graduated high school. Peggy now resides in Gillsville with her husband Hoyt. Peggy has two daughters, Amanda and Courtney, and two step children, Misty and Michael. Whenever possible she enjoys spending time with her grandchildren. As an active member of Oak Grove Baptist Church, she is very involved with the children's program and choir. One of Peggy's many talents is hosting parties and gatherings for friends and family.

Human Resources

- ◆ The GMRC is staying in communication with BCBSGA and GMA to stay aware of any changes that may affect our employees and/or communities concerning the contract negotiations with Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Physicians Group, and The Heart Center. If you have any questions please contact Andrea at 770-538-2624 or anewsom@gmrc.ga.gov.

Economic Development

- ♦ The **Town of Bowersville** received \$96,673 in Georgia Fund Loan financing to install a water line along West Main Street to service new industry west of the town. The project will include installing approximately 3,700 linear feet of 6-inch PVC water line and three fire hydrants.
- ♦ On behalf of the following communities, Economic Development Department Staff submitted ARC pre-applications for the following projects:
Camp Toccoa at Currahee – Restoration of Camp **Toccoa** (Pavilion)
City of Blairsville – Water and Sewer Improvements
City of Clayton – Downtown Infrastructure Improvements
City of Cornelia – Water and Sewer Improvements
City of Hartwell – Farmer's Market
Dawson County Development Authority – Water, Sewer, and Road Infrastructure
Franklin County – I-85 Sewer Collection and Wastewater Treatment Facility
Georgia Appalachian Center for Higher Education (GACHE)
Town of Tallulah Falls – Solar Panels
White County Development Authority – Broadband Expansion



City of Cornelia received \$500,000 in CDBG funding for water improvements



Lumpkin County received \$500,000 in CDBG funding for water improvements

Workforce Development

- ♦ The Mobile Training Units recently participated in large 'back to school' events in both **Forsyth** and **Franklin** Counties, as well as a public safety picnic in **Banks County**. The MTUs will also be present at both an emergency preparedness fair and a personal recovery event in **Hall County** during the latter part of September.
- ♦ The Workforce Development Team recently participated in a Job Fair in **Cornelia** on September 16th and is preparing for another Job Fair in **Toccoa** on October 17th. Employers and partner agencies have been lined up, the Mobile Training Unit and the Workforce Development Team will be present to assist job seekers and provide information about WIA programs.
- ♦ The Mobile Training Units are once again supporting the Youth Department's after-school programs, held on-site at **Habersham, Lumpkin, and Stephens County** schools.
- ♦ Mobile Training Units Participation Numbers for the dates of August 20th thru September 12th:

| RESPONSES | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Total Job Searches | 104 |
| Total Job App | 40 |
| Total Resumes | 30 |
| Total Interviews | 2 |
| Total Interest Survey | 12 |
| Total Training Sessions | 3 |
| Total Testing | 1 |
| Total Typing Assessments | 0 |
| Total GMRC Info | 80 |
| Total Unemployment Claims | 0 |
| Computer Trainings | 0 |
| Microsoft Office Classes | 0 |
| GED assistance | 0 |
| Total Responses | 272 |

Numbers broken down by responses for the 272 individuals that came aboard the MTU's.

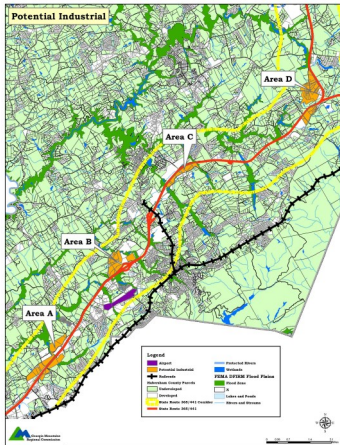
| RESPONSES PER COUNTY | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Banks | 10 |
| Dawson | 0 |
| Forsyth | 13 |
| Franklin | 40 |
| Habersham | 6 |
| Hall | 108 |
| Hart | 12 |
| Lumpkin | 0 |
| Rabun | 12 |
| Stephens | 32 |
| Towns | 12 |
| Union | 0 |
| White | 18 |
| Other | 9 |

Numbers broken down by responses for each GMRC County.

- ♦ If you would like to have one of our MTUs come to your city or county please contact one of our MTU Instructors, Micah Thomas at 770-538-2631 or Keith Krauth at 770-538-2629.

Planning Services

- ♦ The GMRC has completed a Fire Services Assessment for **White County**.
- ♦ The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has approved the Community Agenda for **Rabun County** and its municipalities.
- ♦ The GMRC has completed a first draft of the Highway 365 Corridor Assessment for **Habersham County**, which is now under local review.



- ♦ **Forsyth County** has submitted the annual update for their Capital Improvement Element (CIE) for State and regional review.
- ♦ The **City of Clarkesville** is pursuing an Opportunity Zone designation for a portion of their downtown damaged by fire.

Save The Date

- ♦ It is that time again! Our GMRC Annual Meeting is quickly approaching. Please be sure to RSVP to Peggy Lovell at 770-538-2626.

SAVE THE DATE

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission
Annual Meeting

Dillard House Conference Center
December 5, 2014
Reception - 4:45 p.m.
Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Tickets - \$40.00

Contact Peggy Lovell at
770-538-2607 with any questions.

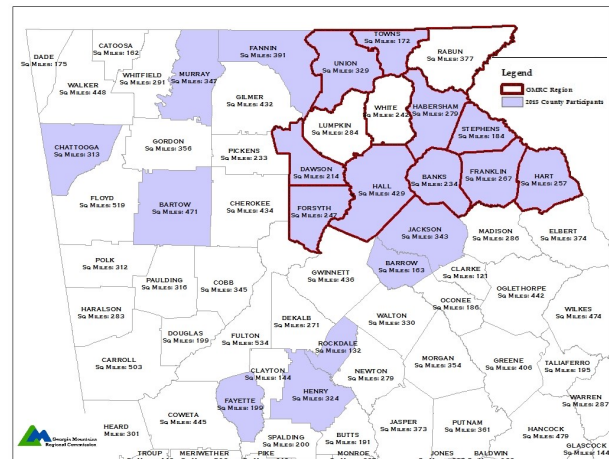
Information Services

Northeast Georgia Digital Economy LocallyGrown.net



From northeastgeorgia.locallygrown.net - September 2, 9:00 AM

- ♦ Locally grown food from local growers! LocallyGrown.net takes the best things about traditional farmers markets and buying clubs and wraps them all together in an online system that's easy for both the grower and the consumer. Find a locally grown market near you, and if there isn't one, start one!
- ♦ GMRC staff recently completed updating the Zoning Map and Historic District for the **City of Hartwell**
- ♦ To date, GMRC has received commitments from 18 counties (10 from the GMRC Region) for the 2015 Flyover Project. Please see the below map (not shown is the City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management area which covers 412 square miles) We still have four counties considering the project. Contact Faith Bryan at 770-538-2614 if you have any questions regarding the project.



- ♦ GMRC Staff assisted **Towns County** with creating a Fire Station District Map. Areas were calculated based on five road miles from each of the eight fire stations provided, two of which were located outside of the County. **Towns County's** Fire Departments are manned by volunteer firefighters.

UPCOMING EVENTS

| DATE | TIME | EVENT | LOCATION |
|--------------|---------|-----------------------------------|--|
| September 25 | 5:00pm | GMRC Executive Committee | Yonah Mtn. Vineyard, White County—Saralyn Stafford Speaker |
| | 6:00pm | GMRC Council Meeting | Yonah Mtn. Vineyard, White County—Saralyn Stafford Speaker |
| October 30 | 3:30pm | WIA Board Meeting | Forrest Hills Conference Center—Dahlongega |
| | 6:00pm | GMRC Council Meeting | Forrest Hills Conference Center—Dahlongega |
| November 20 | 6:00pm | GMRC Council Meeting | City of Dawsonville—City Hall |
| December 5 | 4:45pm | GMRC Annual Meeting Reception | Dillard House Conference Center |
| | 6:00pm | GMRC Annual Meeting | Dillard House Conference Center |
| December 10 | 10:00am | GMRC City/County Managers Meeting | Jaemor Farms—Lula |

****Sponsorships needed for GMRC Council Meetings in 2015. Please call or email Danny Lewis at 770-538-2606 or dlewis@gmrc.ga.gov****

Around the Region

The Beauty of Our Region Continues!



Shady Grove Campground
Forsyth County



Doyle Street Poole
Toccoa, GA



Byron Herbert Reece Pavilion
Blairsville, GA

